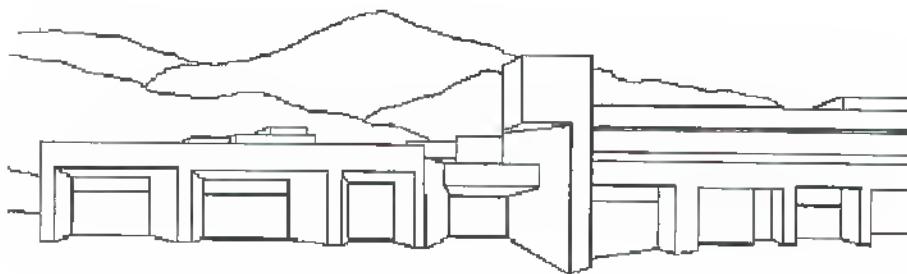

Montana State Library

Fiscal Year 1992/93

July 1, 1992 - June 30, 1993



Annual Report

LD administers federal support for public libraries from House Bill 193 and the Coal Severance Tax plus grants through the Federal Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA).

LSCA grants are used to extend library services to underserved patrons or to those without services, for interlibrary cooperation, and construction and remodeling projects. In fiscal 1993 LD administered the LSCA funded grant programs which: made a LasarCat (computerized regional bibliography) available to 30 additional Montana Libraries; provided technology symposiums in Bozeman and Missoula; completed the Academic Cooperative Collection Development project; provided LaserCat training workshops in Lewistown, Miles City, and Missoula; published the Library Federations Study; completed the Instructional Materials for Non English Speakers project in Billings; got the Helena Reference Point and LincNet projects underway, as well as the Billings Materials delivery to the Homebound and Elderly project.

During fiscal 1993, LD staff organized the Literacy Resource Center to provide coordination and centralization of efforts to provide consulting and support for literacy programs throughout the state. LD staff also worked with the Technology and Collection Development Committees, which work on statewide projects.

In fiscal 1993, LD staff produced a Family Reading Program Manual which was cooperatively produced with the Office of Public Instruction and was distributed to Montana school and public libraries. Users of the manual reported great success for the many happy participants.

Other LD publications include updates, newsletters, an annual library directory, public library statistics, brochures, press releases, and the LSCA application manual.

Sheila Cates, Coordinator of Library Development was chosen to be Montana's Librarian of the Year by the Montana Library Association in April 1993.

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES

LD staff coordinates library services to some state institutions and has direct responsibility for the Patients' Library at Warm Springs State Hospital. This coordination takes two forms: consulting assistance and materials budgets for those institutions with staffed libraries, and contracting with nearby public libraries to provide library services to institutionalized residents.

MONTANA TALKING BOOK LIBRARY

The Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL), formerly the Montana State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH), changed its name in 1993 to emphasize the type of collection rather than the clients served. The library mission remains the same: to provide free library services to Montana citizens who cannot read standard print because of a physical or visual disability.



Sheila Cates
Coordinator of Library Development



The MTBL loans books and magazines in a variety of formats to eligible individuals and institutions. Special playback equipment is also provided. All materials and equipment are provided at no charge and are mailed "Free Matter" both to and from patrons. The MTBL is a regional branch of the Library of Congress which provides the recorded books, braille materials and playback equipment.

CIRCULATION UP AGAIN

The circulation continues to grow with 132,489 books being circulated to approximately 2500 patrons in FY'93. This growth occurred without accompanying growth in staff and MTBL continues to rely on volunteers to help accomplish daily tasks. The library now has 5.5 staff.

During 1993 88 persons contributed to the Montana State Library and its programs through the auspices of the agency's volunteer program. This included all volunteer support at the State Library itself, plus the Telephone Pioneers and the inmate employees of the Montana State Prison Recording Program. These volunteers and inmate employees contributed a total of 13,400 hours during 1993. The MTBL recognized all Helena-area volunteers with a trip on the Helena Tour Train and a picnic supper.

Outreach continued during FY'93 to reach the many eligible citizens who are not yet receiving MTBL services. Eight public forums were held by MTBL staff throughout the state. These forums give the library an opportunity to publicize the program and to interact with their already existing patrons.

A summer reading program was offered during the summers of 1992 and 1993 with 30 of the approximately 150 juvenile patrons participating. A bibliography of braille and recorded juvenile materials was produced centering around the same theme as the statewide family reading program.

The Montana Cassette Book Program, comprising volunteers who record materials by a Montanan or about Montana, continued to produce quality materials during fiscal 1993.

Two recording studios are located at the Montana State Prison in Deer Lodge. The third is at the State Library. In 1993, 55 books were recorded by volunteer and inmate teams. Hundreds of additional titles remain to be recorded. Completed books are in high demand.

NATURAL RESOURCE INFORMATION SYSTEM

The Montana Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) was formed in response to the growing need for quick access to the increasing amounts of natural resource information. Serving government agencies, business and industry, and private citizens, NRIS operates a clearinghouse and referral service to link users with the best sources of information. NRIS has four main components:

132,489 books were circulated to
~ 2,500 patrons by 5.5 staff members
and volunteers in FY94.



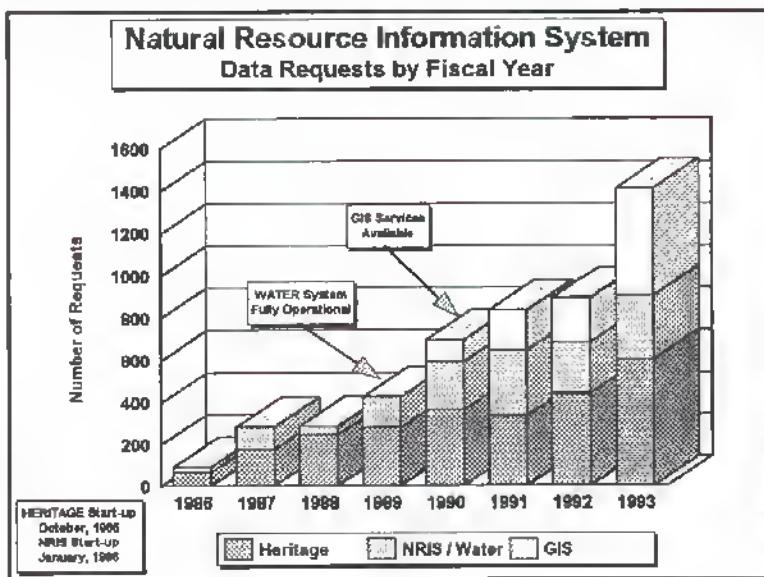
88 volunteers contributed a total of 13,400 hours in 1993.

- * **THE MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM** maintains a computer-assisted inventory of Montana's biological resources, emphasizing rare or endangered plant and animal species, and biological communities.
- * **THE MONTANA WATER INFORMATION SYSTEM** is the starting point for locating water resources information in Montana, such as data on surface water, groundwater water quality, riparian areas, water rights, climate data and more.
- * **THE MONTANA GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS)** provides technical and data acquisition assistance for statewide GIS projects and to agencies developing in-house GIS capability. NRIS inventories available GIS data and coordinates GIS data standards and sharing throughout the state.
- * **THE MONTANA NATURAL RESOURCE INDEX** is a geographical and subject area indexing system for existing natural resource information.

Over the years, NRIS has strived to meet the growing information needs and challenges of Montana's governmental agencies, private business, and general public by developing new services. During the past year, the NRIS staff developed a revised mission statement to more accurately reflect NRIS's current capabilities:

The Montana Natural Resource Information System provides comprehensive access to information about Montana's natural resources to all Montanans through the acquisition, storage, retrieval, and dissemination of that information in meaningful form.

Fiscal year 1993 was a busy year for NRIS. We filled over 1400 requests for natural resource information. The Natural Heritage Program responded to over 600 information requests and published more than 20 reports. Of particular note is that the Heritage Program's database has been loaded onto the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Region 1 mainframe computer in Missoula. Now USFS personnel in all of Region 1 down to the Ranger District level can directly access the Natural Heritage database. The Water Information System responded to nearly 300 information requests, conducted the second year of the Drought Monitoring System, and began work on a Groundwater Atlas for Montana. The Geographic Information System responded to over 500 service and information requests while successfully working on over 15 separate GIS projects.



By: Jason Miller

The Montana Natural Resource Information System provides comprehensive access to information about Montana's natural resources to all Montanans through the acquisition, storage, retrieval, and dissemination of that information in meaningful form.

ADMINISTRATION

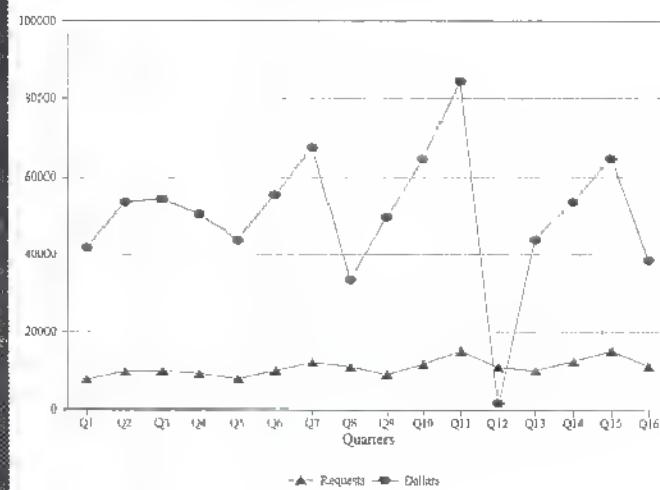
The Administrative unit of the State Library supports the overall personnel, payroll, fiscal and purchasing activities for all sections of the agency, ensuring consistency with state and federal laws and regulations.

During fiscal 1993 the Administrative unit provided support and information for both a regular and a special session of the State Legislature. Issues before that body related to increased funding for state aid to libraries, library involvement in the state's newly-formed Health Care Authority, and the agency's budget. Other activities concerning state government included testimony before the State Board of Education on the importance of library/media center accreditation standards for schools, the annual report to the Joint State Board of Public Education, and meetings with department officials in Natural Resources & Conservation, and in Commerce about library services. The Montana Task Force on Biomedical Information appointed by Governor Stephens made its report to Governor Racicot in February 1993 recommending that the state "develop a health sciences infrastructure which effectively links Montana health care professionals with pertinent information resources and services..." Copies of the report are available from the State Library.

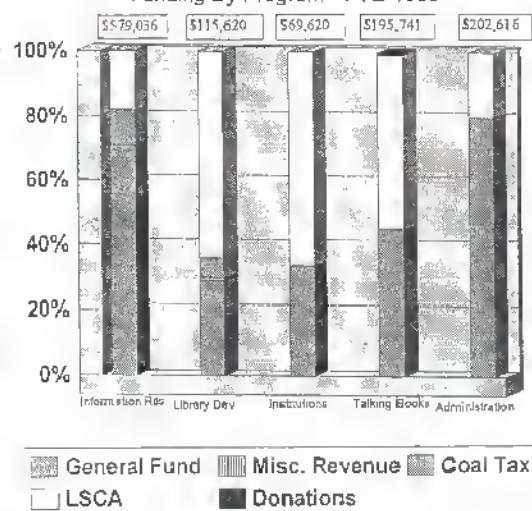
Administration attended the grand openings of the Glendive and Red Lodge Public Libraries. Work proceeded on the update of the public library trustees' manual with a statewide committee and contractor Relene Williard. Hearings on the state's Long Range Program to improve libraries occurred in Miles City, Lewistown and Missoula. Administrative staff also provided support to the Lewis & Clark Public Library on a censorship issue, and to meetings of the statewide family reading program committee. Staff also attended a national conference in Wisconsin on evaluation of programs and activities supported by the federal Library Services & Construction Act.

Several major changes have occurred which fall outside this FY'93 report, but they must be mentioned here because of their profound impact on the agency. The first of these is the death of Sheila Cates, longtime coordinator of Library Development. She died on August 10, 1994 of cancer. The second change is the combination of Library Development and Information Resources into one program entitled Statewide Library Resources. This merger will allow a more effective use of resources throughout the state. The last issue is the Vision Document on which work began in this period, with a date of completion in the summer of 1994. This document will help determine the future direction of Montana State Library.

INTERLIBRARY LOANS
QUARTERLY FROM FY90 TO FY93



MONTANA STATE LIBRARY
Funding By Program - FYE 1993



INFORMATION RESOURCES

Information Resources [IR] is the library within the State Library agency. IR provides reference and information services to state agencies, state employees, librarians across Montana, and the general public, and lends materials either directly to users or through public, school, special or academic libraries.

Information resources also provides centralized library material acquisition, cataloging and technical processing, and operates the state's documents depository center.

SERVICES

In fiscal 1993, IR staff answered 7,749 information requests from state government, circulated 6,294 items and performed over 300 online searches. IR staff circulated 8,263 items to other libraries during fiscal 1993, distributed 6,169 state publications, performed over 250 online searches and responded to 1,186 calls to the 800 number. In addition, IR staff answered 4,201 information requests from public libraries and 3,470 requests from academic, school or special libraries.

COLLECTION

The State Library's general collection gained 665 new titles in fiscal 1993, while 551 titles were discarded. The total number of titles in the general collection is 68,452. The Federal publication collection had 16,578 titles added for a total of 275,482 publications. The state publication collection gained 682 new titles for a total of 12,588 titles.

IR STAFF

Two book authors cited IR staff in their acknowledgements for research help. Harold Chambers of the IR staff was nominated for the Governor's award for excellence as the State Library staff member of the year. IR staff prepared and updated the Grantsmanship and Museum titles bibliographies in fiscal year 1993. IR staff also prepared for and/or made presentation at conferences and to numerous tour groups.

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

Staff members of the Library Development [LD] program consult with librarians, administer grants, produce publications, conduct workshops and otherwise assist librarians to serve their patrons with a high degree of professionalism.

During fiscal 1993, LD staff consulted with librarians on issues related to censorship, literacy, automation, children's services, public relations, collection management, budgeting, voluntary certification, library designs, Friends and Foundation Groups, Board development and policies, and other areas.

Information Requests

7,749 State Government Requests
6,294 Items Circulated
300 Online Searches
1,186 Calls on 800 #
4,201 Public Library Requests
3,470 Academic School and
Special Libraries Requests



Collection

665 New Titles
551 Titles Discarded
68,452 Titles in General Collection
16,578 Federal Publications
682 New State Publications
12,588 State Publications